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### WASHINGTON.

CONGRESS GROWING INDUSTRIOUS. THE APPROPRIATION BILLS PERFECTING-A VETO SUSTAINED-THE SINKING FUND DEBATE-MR.

MORRILL ILL. The River and Harbor bill is completed, and appropriates \$2,275,800, a sum greatly below the estimates. The House discussed the Deficiency Appropriation bill earnestly yesterday; Speaker Randall spoke twice upon it. The Senate Committee advises that Capt. Eads be paid in bonds. The President's veto of the Police bill is final, the Senate sustaining it. Senator Conkling argued yesterday in favor of delay on the Pacific Railroad's Sinking Fund bill until certain questions at issue are decided by the courts. [Secretary Morrill is danger-

SECRETARY MORRILL VERY ILL. A COMPLICATION OF PNEUMONIA AND TYPHOID-GRAVE FRARS FOR THE RESULT. [PY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.-Secretary Morrill is lying dangerously ill with typhoid pneumonia at his rooms in Wormley's Hotel in this city. He was taken sick on Tuesday last, but his condition did not give cause for much alarm until Saturday, when he suffered much pain. That night he slept little, and on Sunday was considerably worse. Yesterday the symptoms of pneumonia abated a good deal, and his physicians had strong hopes of a decidedly favorable turn. The fever has increased since, how ever, so that the condition of the patient is now critical. The disease is of a peculiar character. Pneumonia is a frequent sequence of typhoid, but for the fever to succeed the pneumonia is, the physicians say, a rare occurrence. A younger and stronger man, they remark, would have a fair prospect of recovery, but the Secretary's age and his delicate health before the attack make the case an exceedingly grave one. While his recovery is not hopeless, his death must be regarded as a result greatly to be apprehended.

CAPT. EADS'S HALF MILLION. THE HOUSE BULL REQUIRING PAYMENT IN CASH RE-JECTED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE-A RIGHT TO THE BONDS URGED. (BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 .- The report of the Senate Appropriations Committee to-day is a triumph for Capt. Eads. The law under which he is constructing his jetties at the mouth of the Mississippi provides that when his first claim of \$500,000 becomes due the Treasury shall issue to him bonds to that amount unless Congress has made an appropriation to pay it. Last Fail Capt. Eads was entitled to his pay. Congress having full notice last session of the approaching maturity of his claim failed to make an appropriation. Afterward the Secretary of the Treasury refused to deliver him the bonds on the plea, as it is reported, that Capt. Eads could realize a premium on them. This Winter the House, overdiligent as usual to do a mean act, passed an appropriation to cut Capt. Eads off from getting the bonds. The Senate Committee now kills the bill on the report of the committee that he is plainly entitled to the bonds, and that Congress cannot step in by an ex post facto act and deprive him of them. If United States bonds were below par there can be little question but that the House would be as eager to force Capt. Eads to take them as it is now to prevent him from getting them.

THE POLICE VETO SUSTAINED. NOT TWO-THIRDS OF THE SENATE AGAINST THE VETO.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Washington, Feb. 6 .- The President's veto of the bill abolishing the Board of Police Commissioners of the District of Columbia was sustained by the Senate to-day. Less than the requisite two-thirds voted to pass the bill. The personnel of the board has been entirely changed since the veto message was sent to the House, and the present members appear to be unobjectionable. Nevertheless the queer and inconsequent logic of the President's objections to the bill scarcely warranted the Senate in changing its mind as to the wisdom of the measure. The Metropolitan Police system was established when Washington had a Democratic municipal government, and a Republican Congress wanted the police to be independent of the Mayor. Now that the Distriet is governed by a commission responsible directly to the President, there appears to be no good reason why the police should not be under its authority. The failure of the bill will, however, vitalize the new board, which has been waiting in a comatose condition for the action of the Senate, and the much demoralized police will be speedily got into effective condition.

THE SINKING FUND BILL.

SENATOR CONKLING ADVOCATES PAIR TREATMENT OF THE RAILROADS-LITTLE PROSPECT OF A SET-TLEMENT THIS SESSION. BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6 .- Senator Conkling took the part of the Pacific railroads to-day in the discussion of the Sinking Fund bill. He argued with a good deal of earnestness that the questions at issue between the Government and the roads are now in process of adjudication by the courts, and that it would be unjust for Congress to step in and by an arbitrary act to prescribe a mode of settlement in disregard of the existing legal rights of the companies. One of these questions concerns the pay-ment by the companies to the United States of five per cent of their net earnings from the date of the completion of their roads. The pending bill of the Judiciary Committee assumes 1869 as the year the roads were finished, but the Executive Department of the Government did not accept them as completed until 1874, and held back the final land patents until that time. The companies therefore decline to pay the percentage prior to the latter date.

What are not earnings, is a disputed question sent to the courts for decision three years ago, and not yet finally determined. The bill makes them the excess over operating expenses, but the companies claim that such earnings are only the surplus remaining after paying taxes, the interest on their debts, and running expenses. The United States is bound by law to pay the companies one-half of their charges for transporting mails and Government supplies, but this is withheld as an offset for the nonpayment of the five per cent claim. Some years ago Congress sought to enforce the payment by the roads of the amount paid by the treasury for annual interest on the Government loan, but the Supreme Court decided that the interest did not become a claim against the companies until the maturity of

The whole dispute is a curious and complicated muddle, and the prospect of any settlement of it by legislation this session is not encouraging.

DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS. A DISCUSSION IN THE HOUSE BRINGS SPEAKER RAN-DALL TO THE FLOOR-RECRIMINATION-NAVAL

OFFICERS' PAY.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.-The House was roused from its comatose condition for a little while today during the discussion of the Deficiency Appropriation bill. Mr. Whitthorne offered an amendment making at appropriation for the full pay of officers of the navy who were placed on furlough pay by the Secretary last year in order to kep the expenses of his Department within the sum allowed. The Democrats attempted to hold the Secretary responsible for thus degrading naval officers, asserted that had not a greater number of vessels been placed in commission than was necessary, thus increasing the number of officers on sea pay, the appropriations would have been ample to provide for the pay of all officers without placing any of them on furlough. To this the Republicans replied that the appropriation for pay had been reduced \$500,000 below the estimate submitted by the Navy Department, and that the House made the reduction with its eyes wide

open. The Secretary had informed the committee of the

nount of money necessary for this purpose. Incidental to this debate the Democrats, having been twitted by the Republicans on the necessity of reporting deficiency bills, found it necessary to come to the defense of the reductions which they made in the appropri ations of last year. Speaker Randall took the floor and made two five-minute speeches, in which he asserted that had it not been for those reductions the revenue of the Government would not have been sufficient to meet the appropriations, and that no alternative would have now been presented except an increase of taxation. On the other hand, he said that in no case had the pre tion would cause embarrassment in the departments and prevent the necessary business from being transacted This the Republicans denied with considerable force, and asserted that the present was not the only deficiency bill which would have to be passed to cover the expenses of

the Government for the present year; and that when the accounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, are made up it will be found that the actual reductions made by the Democratic House of Representatives have not been as great as those made by the last Republican House.

As is common in debates of this kind, there was some truth in what was said on both sides. It is a fact that in many departments officers have been embarrassed and business has dragged for the want of sufficient clerical and other force. On the other hand, there have been none of those disastrous results so freely predicted by the Republicans when they were opposing the reductions last session. As a general rule the departments have accommodated themselves to the reduced allowances, and the wheels of Government have continued to move in spite of them. It is also true that had not the Committee on Appropriations made very large reductions from the spite of them. It is also true that had not the Committee on Appropriations made very large reductions from the estimates of last year there would have been a large deficiency to be provided for, either by an increase of taxation or by the issue of bonds. These facts are tacily admitted by many Republicans, and as a result there is very little opposition to the appropriation bills as they are reported from the Committee. The amendment appropriating money to give furloughed officers waiting-orders pay was adopted.

the Government for the present year; and that when

RIVER AND HARBOR BILL. IT IS COMPLETED-SOME OF THE LEADING APPRO-PRIATIONS.

Washington, Feb. 6.—The House Committee on Commerce completed to-day the River and Harbor bill, upon which it has been engaged for several weeks. The reductions in the appropriations for rivers and har-bors will be very great, in many instances amounting to from 50 to 75 per cent when compared with those made last year. A large proportion of the estimates submitted by the department will be wholly disregarded. The reporting of this bill will by no means insure its passage. sgainst the passage of any River and Harbor Appropriation bill this session; and it is more than likely that the may be the passage of a joint resolution directing President to make the unexpended balances of last year's appropriation, which have been withheld by order for this has been added to the River and Harbor bill.

The total amount of the appropriations recommended is \$2,275,800, including as the largest item, \$200,000, for removing obstructions from the East River and Hell

are as follows:

For the improvement of rivers—Mouth of the Mississippi, \$100,000; Mississippi, Missouri, and Arkansas, \$65,000; Mississippi, opposite St. Louis, \$70,000; Des Moines Rapids, Mississippi River, \$95,000; Uppar Mississippi, \$30,000; Rock Island Rapids, Mississippi River, \$10,000; Missouri River, above the mouth of the Yellowstone, \$10,000; Tennessee River, \$200,000; Ohio River, \$130,000; St. Mary's River and St. Mary's Falls Canal, \$100,000; Saginaw River, \$30,000; Schnylkill River, \$15,000; Falls of St. Anthony, Minn. \$5,000; Delaware River, below Petty's Island, \$35,000; James River, Va., \$40,000; Great Kanawha River, W. Va., \$100,000; Little Kanawha River, W. Va., \$5,000; Cape Fear River, \$110,000; Connecticut River, below Hartford, \$35,000; Tannton River, Mass., \$5,000; Providence River, R. I. \$5,000.

For harbor improvements—Galveston, Texas, \$100,000

ford, \$35,000; Tannton River, Mass., \$5,009; Providence River, R. I, \$5,000.

For harbor improvements—Galveston, Texas, \$100,000; Savannah, Ga., \$95,000; Baltimore, \$60,000; Buffato, \$80,000; Oswego, N. Y., \$50,000; Boston, \$25,000; Provincetown, Mass., \$10,000; Hyannis, Mass., \$10,000; Eric, Penn., \$25,000; for the construction of an ice harbor at Chester, Penn., \$800; harbor and breakwater at Wilmington, Del., \$31,000; for breakwater at Cleveland, Ohio, \$40,000; harbor at Toledo, Ohio, \$30,000; Chicago, \$5,000; Michigan City, Ind., \$35,000; harbor of refuge, Lake Huron, Mich., \$75,000; Grand Haven, Mich., \$20,000; Cheboyyan, Mich., \$15,000; Milwatkee harbor, \$20,000; miscellaneous dredging, superior Bay, \$37,000; ship channel in Galveston Bay, \$25,000; examination survey and contingencies of rivers and harbors, \$15,000; examination and surveys at South Pass of the Mississippi river, \$15,000.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1877. George F. Miller, one of the men who operated for time to explain certain telegrams. He appears to have time to explain certain telegrams. He appears to have figured in the matter with Patrick, and until to-day both these men have eluded all efforts of the Sergeant-at-Arms to find them. This afternoon it was ascertained that Miller had been here at a prominent hotel under an assumed name and not registered, and was in constant communication with the Democratic managers of the Oregon case. His room was ascertained, and a subpena served on him to appear at the Senate Committee tomorrow.

The House Judiciary Committee this morning agreed to report that in their opinion the difficulty in regard to an adjournment of the House before the completion of the electoral count can be obviated by a change in the rules as suggested by Speaker Randall yesterday, and that, therefore, an amendment of the Electoral act will not be necessary. Mr. Knott subsequently presented the report, but immediately withdrew it upon a private suggestion that it would be better to await a report which will probably be made by the Committee on Rules to-day rdance with its conclusions.

In 1841 the original Declaration of Independence and ertain treaties were sent by Daniel Webster, who was then Secretary of State, to the Patent Office for safe keeping, and deposited in a proper place in that building. Now that there is ample security for these documents in the State Department building, in the castedy of which department they are thought to properly belong, Mr. Chandler has considered it his duty to restore them to that department, and an order to that effect has been seemed.

The House Committee on Military Affairs voted to-day to report favorably a bill providing for the permanent es tablishment of the Signal Corps, and for transferring it to the Coast Survey Service. The letter from Gen. Sherman, in which he opposed the organization of the Signal Corps as an independent bureau of the War Department, has been the principal cause which has influenced the members of the committee to propose the change indicated.

The Interoceanic Canal Treaty between the United States and Nicaragua has not yet been submitted to the formal conversation on the subject elicited the important fact that it would meet with prompt approval, and it not submitted too late in the session would be ratified, so that any measures on the part of the United States and foreign governments looking to an inauguration of the Work might be consummated. committee, though it was intimated to-day that an in-

The Committee on Foreign Relations to-day considered the new Spanish Treaty. The expression of views by the members of the committee indicated a favorable report memoers of the committee indicated a favorable report and a prompt ratification. Final action, however, was delayed in order that some additional information in re-gard to certain features of the extradition provisions may be obtained from the Secretary of State. The treaty will doubtiess be reported for action within a few

The Indian Appropriation bill, as reported from the Senate Committee to-day, is increased in amount \$636,-000 over the total sanctioned by the House, which was 84,432,000. The principal items of increase proposed by the Schatte Committee are as follows: \$297,000 for Sioux Indians of various tribes, \$25,000 for the Sioux at Fort Peck Agency, \$43,000 for the Osages, and \$15,000 for the support of schools.

Five companies of United States troops arrived here vesterday; one company, numbering 56 men, under command of Col. Frank, and which has been stationed for mand of Col. Frank, and which has been stationed in some time at Charleston, S. C., disembarked and marched to the arsenal, where they will be quartered. The other companies proceeded to New-York. Two companies of the 2d Artillety are expected to arrive in a day or two and will also be quartered at the arsenal.

The German Minister says it is not true, as has been published, that all German honorary consuls are to be withdrawn from the United States. He says that only the inland honorary consulates will be abolished, and that they will be replaced by two or three censuls, namely, at St. Louis, Chicago, and probably Chichmat, and that all the German honorary consulates in the harbors of the United States will remain.

Advices to the Internal Revenue Office show that preparations are nearly completed for a raid upon illiest distilleries in the northern portions of Georgia and South Carolina. The raid will be conducted by mounted in-lantry, no cavalry being obtainable.

At the Cabinet meeting to-day all the members were present excepting Secretary Robeson and Secretary Morrill. Mr. Morrill continues very sick, though the extent of his sufferings do not appear to be known at the depart-

Commissioner Raum has purchased 53 horses and cav-

alry equipments, to be used by the infantry force to assist the revenue officials in the enforcement of the laws in Georgia and South Carolina.

The Silver Commission, of which Senator Jones of Ne-And is chairman, held a session to-day, at which Mr. Henri Cernaschi, the eminent French writer on financial subjects, gave an extended expression of his views con-cerning the relative, values of gold and silver, and the advisability of establishing the bi-metallic standard.

THE SUSQUEHANNA ICE GORGES.

NO DANGER AT PORT DEPOSIT-THE ICE ROTTEN-FREE OUTLET FOR THE WATER.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 6 .- Yesterday the Susque hanna River, at Port Deposit, was four feet lower than on Sunday, when the ruse was so sudden that religious worship in the churches gave place to the care of things temporal. The river was open at the mouth, with a clear track extending along the front of Havre de Grace beyond Spesutia Island, out into Chesapeake Bay. From the great railroad bridge out to the river's mouth the ice was unbroken, though rotten and ready for the tide and favorable winds to carry it out. Above the bridge to within half a mile of Port Deposit the ice, though un broken, was soft, honey-combed, and next to dissolution. The rapid fall of the water on Sunday demonstrates that there is an outlet for the present volume, though the current of the river is not strong. At present there is n danger of a freshet. The snow has disappeared from the face of the country, there have been no heavy rains, and the water has a comparatively free passage to the bay The river is very muddy, and muddy water rapidly cuts through rotten ice. A dispatch from Fort Deposit to The Sun says:

The Sun says:

Reports from above, probably exaggerated, represent a heavy gorge at McCall's Ferry; 25 miles from Port Deposit. The river at McCall's Ferry is very narrow, and is no doubt choked, but not to half the extent represented. It is stated that the gorge there extends for seven miles, and that the water has rised 25 feet, which is simply Munchausen. At Columbia, Penn., it is reported the water has risen four feet, which makes no difference to any interest, and at Wildiamsport it is nine feet higher than ordinarily, while 16 feet would simply make a good rafting flood. The rise of Sunday covered the railway tracks at certain points with broken ice, which look like cakes of snow. In front of the town the river is still covered with broken ice of the same character, but there is no gorge, and no damage has been done. Very little of the ice is piled against the wharves. The laborers of the railway companies have cleared the tracks, and the trains are running on time as usual to and from the depot in the center of the city. Carr's Island, above Port Deposit, has been abaudoned by the family residing on it. Lapidum, across the river, is in no danger, and remains firmly anchonged at the railroad and verdant hills.

To-day the ice remains unchanged at the railroad.

To-day the ice remains unchanged at the railroad bridge at Havre de Grace, but is very rotten. On the west side of the Susquehanna there is a strip of water extending the whole length of the town. From the Havre de Grace Lighthouse to the Battery Lighthouse the ice is broken in large cakes and drifting up and down with the tide.

COLUMBIA, Penn., Feb. 6.-The condition of

the Susquehanna at this point still remains about the same. The channel is still open and is running full of broken ice. There is a large body of ice still here north of the bridge. The water is not rising. No damage as yet reported. PORT DEPOSIT, Md., Feb. 6 .- At Columbia,

40 miles above here, the ice moved for about two hours to-day, creating some excitement there. It gorged again at York Furnance, and holds firm. CONDITION OF THE WEST BRANCH UNCHANGED.

WILLIAMSPORT, Penn., Feb. 6.-The Susquehanna River is ten feet above low water mark, and is at a stand. The ice has moved below but not above here. LOCK HAVEN, Penn., Feb. 6 .-- There is no change in the river to-day, except that the ice has gone out o Cook's Run, near Keating, and lodged at the head of the gorge at Keating's. The water is falling. Most of the lumber piles on the banks of the river have been torn up and damaged.

LATER.—There has been no change in the river since

NO DANGER AT PORT JERVIS. PORT JERVIS, N. Y., Feb. 6.-There has been has not risen more than six inches, and the ice is not breaking.

THE DELAWARE AND SCHUYLKILL AT PHILA-DELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 6.—The Delaware River car this city is quite clear of ice. The Schuylkill is still frozen above the city, but no danger is apprehended. THE RIVER FREE AT HARRISBURG.

HARRISBURG, Penn., Feb. 6.-The river is clear of ice at this point, and is about five feet above low HIGH WATER AT THE JUNCTION

NORTHUMBERLAND, Penn., Feb. 6.-The river is very high here and full of ice. At Dry Valley Farnace four miles above here, the ice is firm and still gorged. Below this point the ice moved slightly this afternoon, but is now stationary.

Keating, Penn. Feb. 6.-The water here is still falling, and in the absence of heavy rain there is no apprehension of danger.

LEWISBURG, Penn., Feb. 6.-The river has risen about 18 inches since 5 this evening, and the ice has moved slightly.

# MAIL ROBBERIES.

A MAIL BAG STOLEN IN KENTUCKY. CINCINNATI, Ohio, Feb. 6 .- A mail bag conning letters and about \$25,000 worth of bank cheeks and private drafts, while on route from Newport, Ky., t Cincinnati several days ago, was opened and the contents stolen. No clew to the thief has been obtained. There has been a determined effort to keep the matter secret. The First National Bank of Covington had over \$10,000 worth of checks in that mail, and James Taylor & Sons, bankers, a still larger amount. Among other papers there was a gold draft on a California bank calling for \$5,600.

ROBBERIES BY A CONNECTICUT POSTMASTER. NEW-HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 6 .- Within a few weeks many letters have been missed between the town of Woodbury and this city and other places. The ,case was put into the hands of Special Agent Spurying, who caught the robber in the act. He is B. S. Hicock, post master at Southbury, a man hitherto much respected

# THE ASHTABULA SLAUGHTER.

EIGHTY PERSONS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST AND SIXTY-NINE SAVED.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Feb. 6 .- The Leader's Ashtabula special dispatch says: "Chas. Pame, general super intendent of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway Company, testified: He has a list of those supposed to have been on the wrecked train; some of whom were at first reported as missing have been ascertained no and some were fraudulently so reported; the list contains the names of 72 adults and 8 children supposed to be lost and 69 saved; some are marked doubtful; this list includes the names of all known to have been on the train, both passengers and employés, many of whom have not been identified by any articles found among the remains; have no means of knowing how many were on the train except by conductor's report; he reports 128 adult passengers, 6 train hands, 5 sleeping-car hands 3 expressmen, 2 baggage men, and 1 newsboy; con-cerming the rumored orders about the use of water on the fire, he did not issue any such orders, and knows of no such orders having been issued by any officers of the company; Mr. Collins never expressed any distrust of the safety of the bridge to him, and, on the contrary, said to him that its only fault in his opinion was its great surplus of strength."

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 6.—Another Russian gun-oat, the Gornastai, arrived yesterday from Vlagivastock

BOSTON, Feb. 6.—John Hayden, one of the two keepers of Minor's Ledge Lighthouse, attempted to commi-suicides few night's since. There is no hope of his recovery. PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 6.—Win. Watis, who had a quarrel with Win. Brancon about a dobt of \$2, on the night of fan. 25, died this morning from the injuries inflicted by the latter.

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 6.—Mrs. Elizabeth Noice, as the administratrix of Edward Noice, deceased, has instituted a suit against Albert D. Brown for \$60,000 damages, for the abduction of Alice Noice, her daughter.

for the abduction of Alice Noice, her daughter.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Feb. 6.—The Democrats of the IId District of Orange County met in Convention here to day and nominated J. V. D. Benedict of Warwick on the 26th ballot, to filt the vacancy caused by the death of Assemblyman S. I. Durland.

EVANSVILLE, Ind., Feb. 6.—A collision last night between a freight and a coal train on the 3t. Louis and South-Eastern Railroad caused the instant death of Frank Wilson, a brakeman, and severe injuries to A. Brockman, engineer, and several brakemen.

## COUNTING THE VOTE.

A DECISION ON FLORIDA TO-DAY. COMMISSION DELIBERATING IN SECRET-THE REPUBLICAN POSITION AS TO EVIDENCE LIKELY

TO BE SUSTAINED. The Electoral Commission was in secret session all day yesterday. The judges took no part in the active discussions. No vote was taken upon admitting evidence as to the Florida election. It will be taken to-day. It is believed that no investigation of the election will be permitted.

THE SECRET SESSION. THE DEBATE CONDUCTED WITH ARDOR AND ABILITY

-THE JUDGES NON-COMMITTAL-THE OTHERS

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.-The Electoral Commission met in secret session at 12 o'clock to-day and continned its discussion until 8 p. m., with the exception of a recess of half an hour beginning at 3 p. m. No vote was taken on the question which is now up der consideration by the Commission, namely whether Congress has power to consider any evidence except the papers submitted to the two houses by the President of the Senate; but before the adournment an informal understanding was reached that a decision should be made at 3 o'clock to-morrow. It is hardly probable that this decision will be publicly announced to-morrow. The Commission will undoubtedly adjourn to meet at the same hour on Thursday and cause notice to be given to the counsel and the public that it will be then ready to proceed with its business with open doors.

Although no injunction of secrecy was by a formal yote placed upon the members of the Commission, a remark made by Judge Clifford just before the adjournment makes all of them unwilling to converse much upon the subject this evening. It is learned from various sources that the discussion tobranches of the Commission-that is, by the Senators and Representatives. The judges seemed to act separately and as a quasi court, while the remaining members have acted the role of advocates arguing in support of the positions taken by their respective par ties. The discussions to-day were sometimes heated, and in almost every case showed a greater familiar ity and a better grasp of the question on the part of the members of the Commission than was evinced in the speeches made by the counsel in the open meetings of the Commission. In some instances the members presented what they had to say in a conversational

manner, while in others they spoke as in a court or

legislative body. As far as can be learned, the Senators and Repre sentatives of each party stood firmly together. The Republicans held the ground advanced by Gen. Garfield in his speech in the House, and subsequently urged by Stanley Mathews, that the Commission only has power to inquire what the Returning Board in Florida did. The Democrats held the doctrine that it is proper for the Commission to inquire how and why the Returning Board acted as it did. There was nothing said by any of the judges which indicated their opinions on the question, but Republi can members of the Commission express belief that the judges will divide politically, and that Judge Bradley's vote will decide the question. It is understood that the judicial members of the Commission have this evening requested the political representatives upon it to prepare short, succinct briefs, and to present them for the consideration of the Commis sion to-morrow, and that the immediate representatives of the two parties shall also present arguments

on the question orally. It is conjectured that the judges may consult mong themselves after this argument before the vote is finally taken. After the decision of this interlocutory question, additional arguments will be made on both sides occupying four hours, so that the Florida case will not be decided before Friday

EVIDENCE TO BE EXCLUDED. THE PROBABILITIES NOW VERY STRONG-A DECISION AS TO FLORIDA THIS WEEK. GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.1

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The Electoral Commission, after taking a recess of half of the afternoon, remained in secret session until nearly 8 o'clock this evening, when they adjourned to meet again for private conference at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. No vote was taken to-day, nor was any conclusion reached on any point at issue; but it was agreed all pending questions in regard to the admission of evidence shall be decided to-mor-

It can be stated that, according to present indications, a majority of the Commission will decide that, in addition to the electoral certificates, no evidence can be received by the Commission in regard to the Florida case, except such as relates merely to the action of the Florida State Government subsequent to the Presidential election. Conceding this to be the determination of the Commission, their inquiries in regard to matters of fact will be restricted to a comparatively narrow range, and thus a final decision in the Florida case may be expected sooner than has been generally anticipated. The evidence concerning the action of the Florida courts and Legislature on the matter in controversy is of a documentary character and is already acces-

It is probable, therefore, that their final decision in the Florida case will be reported to the joint sesion of the two houses before the close of the present

# THE INDIAN CAMPAIGN.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE DEFEAT OF CRAZY HORSE'S BAND IN THE VALLEY OF THE TONGUE RIVER. CHICAGO, Feb. 6.-A St. Paul dispatch reseived to-day officially at military headquarters here says: The following has just been received via Bose, man and Helena:

Headquarters, Command on the Yellowstone, }
I have the honor to report that this command fought hostile tribes of Cheyesne and Ogalnla Sloux under Crazy Horse in skirmishes on the lst, 3d, and 7th of January, and in a five-hours' engagement on the 8th inst. Their camp, consisting of some 500 lodges, extended three nules along the valley of the Tongue River below Hanging Woman's Creek. They were driven through the canous of the Wolf or Pauther Mountains, in the direction of the Big Horn Mountains. Their fighting strength outnumbered mine by two or three to one, but by taking advantage of the ground we had them at a disadvantage, and their loss is known to be very severe. Our loss is three killed and eight wounded. They fought entirely dismounted, and charged on foot to within 50 yards of Capt. Casey's line, but were taken in front and flank by Capt. Butter's and Lieut. McDonald's companies. They were whipped at every point and driven from the field and pursued as far as my limited supplies and worns uppear to have plenty of arms and animalition, but otherwise are in a deatitute condition. Some of the prisoners now in our hands were captured with frozen limbs, and were living on horse-meat. The weather has been very severe, and the snow from one foot to three feet deep. The command is in good condition.

NELSON A. MILES, commanding. HEADQUARTERS, COMMAND ON THE YELLOWSTONE, }

Gen. Terry appends a brief note to the dispatch highly commendatory of the activity and efficiency of Miles's campaign. THE GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA DISSATISFIED WITH

THE SLOW PROGRESS OF THE ARMY-EMPLOY-MENT OF FRONTIERSMEN AND INDIAN SCOUTS SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 6.-Dispatches from

Tucson, Arizona, state that the Apaches are killing and plundering the settlers in South-Eastern Arizona. Ten whites were killed in the Senorita Valley on the 4th inst. Gov. Safford has sent a message to the Legislature re counting the depredations and murders committed' dwelling on the inefficient manner with which military operations are being conducted-troops moving slowly with heavy trains and unable to reach their more mobile enemy—and recommends that the Legislature memorialize the Secretary of War, asking for the appointment

of a body of Indian scouts to operate with the troops, or else appropriate moneys to raise and equip a force of whites and friendly Indians and carry on a vigorous sampaign. The Governor says that as military oper ations have been conducted for the last six months, the ations have been conducted for the last six months, the whole army of the United States could not subdue the hostiles in the next 12 years, while he believes that a scouting party of 25 citizens and as many Indian auxiliaries could accomplish the work in three months. He expresses the fear that, under the present condition of affairs, South-Eastern Arizona must be abandoned by settlers, and that the success of the hostiles is liable to induce an outbreak among the reservation Indians, resulting in a general war.

#### INSURANCE EXPOSURES.

PROBING THE CONTINENTAL

HE PRIVATE PAPERS TAKEN FROM THE VAULTS PURPOSE OF FORMING A NEW COMPANY OUT OF THE RUINS OF THE OLD-MORTGAGES GIVEN TO THE COMPANY BY ITS OFFICERS-CASH ENTRIES WITHOUT THE CASH-MR. FROST'S IMMENSE RE-

CEIPTS FROM COMMUTATION FEES, The examination into the affairs of the Coninental Life Insurance Company was continued yesterday before William Allen Butler, referee, at No. 22 Nassau-st. L. V. Styles, formerly cashier of the company, was examined as to the purpose for which he admitted Luther W. Frost and Rufus C. Frost, two of the directors, and D. J. Noyes, one of the attorneys for the receiver, into the company's vaults on Jan. 14. He said that this was done in order to make out a new list of bonds and mortgages, with a view to forming a new company. He admitted that a bundle of papers, about 15 inches in length, had been taken from the vaults either by Rufus C. Frost or D. J. Noyes. He did not know certainly what these papers were, and there might have been two bundles of them, but he believed they were nothing but private letters. No conclusion was reached in regard to new company, and the proposed new mortgage book was not written up.

In regard to an entry on the bond and mortgage book dated Sept. 25, 1875, Mr. Styles said: "This is an increase on a mortgage that I had given from \$5,000 to \$7,500. I paid this \$2,500 on Sept. 30, 1876, with money which I received from the company on the same day. I was not forced to open the vaults for Mr. Frost and the others by being told that if I did not they would expose the fact that I still owed \$5,000 on this mortgage. Mr. Noyes has entered the vaults several times since the receiver was appointed."

The witness then testified concerning certain entries n the cash book dated Sept. 25, 1876, and it was shown that the cash account had been credited with \$35,000 ommutation fees paid to L. W. Frost, and this entry was offset by a cash debit, \$10,000 charged to the loan account and \$25,0000 to pay off a mortgage held by the company on the property of L. W. Frost. At this time R. C. Frost was acting president for L. W. Frost. and ordered Mr. Styles to make out the check to L. W. Frost. This line of examination led the counsel into the examination of the commutation fees account, which showed that in September, 1876, L. W. Frost had been credited with \$90.946 46 commutation fees. The entrie were followed up through the books and carefully verifled, and the witness was thoroughly cross-examined that there should be no mistake regarding this matter. He said Mr. L. W. Frost got all these commissions

In answer to Mr. Van Pelt, of counsel for the policy holders, Mr. Styles said: "The purpose for which opened the vault was to make up a new list of mortgages from the mortgage book of the company, with a view to W. Crofut did not have certain mortgages which they expected to have. There are mortgages on the old bond and mortgage book of the company which are the book which I made out at all. I don't know what the list of mortgages of the new company was to comprise. I was for seven or eight years the cashier of the company, received the money paid in and made the cash entries. I always received the actual cash in cases where I made entries, except when I was directed by L. W. Frost or R. C. Frost to make cash entries, and then make connier entries to balance the first entries. I did this whenever I was told. This was necessary to balance my cash. All I knew about the new company was that Mr. Frost, Mr. Crofut, and Mr. Chandler were to establish the company out of the bonds of this company. Their idea was to get this company out of the hands of the receiver. I made up the present revised mortgage book three or four weeks ago. I did not do it at any person's direction. That was not to furnish the list of neotrages to be used for the new company. The old record was to furnish this list, because there were \$102,000 additional mortgages transferred to the New-Jersey Mutual prior to the receiver being appointed. The mortgages upon the old record that are not on the new one amount to \$107,000. Among these I see by the record two mortgages given the company by James P. Rogers, the former Secretary, one for \$12,500, and the other for \$25,000."

The witness then told what he knew about the Empire Mutual stock that was found in the safe, and which was not in the list of the assets of the company. The Empire Mutual Company went into bankruptey, and one of its officers and directors was L. W. Frost, President of the Continental. The witness said that it was his belief that every stare of this stock was redeemed dollar for dollar by the Continental Company. The stock belonged to the Frosts, and it is asserted by counsel that it was used as and made the cash entries. I always received the actual

Continental. The witness said that it was his belief that every share of this stock was redeemed dollar for dollar by the Continental Company. The stock belonged to the Frosts, and it is asserted by counsel that it was used as collateral to betrow money on from the Continental Company as late as 1873—long after the Empire Company had gone into bankruptey. Mr. Van Pelt, who had examined the envelopes in which the stock was kept, told the reporter that there was about \$85,000 of it.

Ex-Judge Fullerton testified that he had received from Mr. Anderson, \$2,500, on Nov. 10, 1876, and \$2,500 on Jan. 15, 1877. He stated the services for which those amounts were paid. He produced an agreement dated Oct. 10, 1876, between the Continental and the New-Jersey Mutual, by which the former transferred to the latter certain policies which it was to reinsure, and in consideration therefore transferred securities which Mr. Fullerton believed to amount to \$314,000. Of this he had recovered \$102,000, which he held for his chent, Mr., Anderson. An injunction was granted on Oct. 9, 1876, restraining the Continental Ifrom paying out anymore money or otherwise disposing of its property. On Oct. 10 the agreement between the Continental and the New-Jersey Mutual was signed, scaled, and carried out. This agreement between the Continental and the New-Jersey Mutual was signed, scaled, and carried out. This agreement related to the transfer of the \$314,000 securities. ment related to the transfer of the \$514,000 securities, On Oct. If the injunction was served upon the officers of the company, but too late to stop this transfer. Mr. Fullerton said, in conclusion, that he had not been counsel for the Continental and the New-Jersey Mutual

William R. Grace yesterday gave bonds in \$200,000 for the faithful performance of his duties as receiver of the Continental Life Insurance Company in place of John J. Anderson, suspended, the following persons qualifying as his bondsmen: Eugene Kelly, James E. qualifying as his bondsmen: Eugene Kelly, James E. Ward of James E. Ward & Co., and Isaac F. Chapman and Benjamin Finit of Chapman & Finit. The bonds were approved by Judge Pratt, and Mr. Grace will take possession of the office this morning. In conversation with a TRIBUNE reporter Mr. Grace said yesterday that he should leave the present offices of the company for cheaper quarters as soon as the change could be made. It is understood that while the Insurance Department has no objection whatever to Mr. Grace, it will nevertheless insist upon its right to take charge of the company, and that consequently a friendly suit will probably be instituted at an early day for the purpose of settling the question.

NEW-JERSEY MUTUAL. CHANCELLOR RUNYON GIVES THE COMPANY'S

COUNSEL FURTHER TIME TO PREPARE HIS TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 6.-The matter of the

nformation against the New-Jersey Mutual Life Insur-

ance Company was taken up in the Court of Chancery this afternoon. Attorney-General Vanatta appeared for the State and Thos. N. McCarter for the company. Mr. McCarter said that he was present to answer to the information, and to oppose the appointment of a receiver or the issuing of an injunction. He had not received antii the previous day the statement from the company's actuary, and had not had time to prepare an answer. said that he would be able to show that the alleged deficiency did not exist, and asked one week's postponement in order to prepare an answer. Attorney-General Vanatta opposed the application, claiming that the company had already had 17 days in which to answer, and further time would not establish the solvency of the company A receiver was necessary to secure the property remain ing. An argument took place on the power of the court, Mr. McCarter claiming that no injunction could issue

until after the parties had been heard, or at least the facts in the information had been heard ex parte. The Chancellor decided, that although the company had had ample time to answer the main allegations, yet on account of the shortness of the time which the counsel had, a little further space was necessary to prepare his answer, which need not be written. The circumstance of the case required that it should be heard speedily, and he would hear the case on Thursday morning. The Sco-retary of State will not pr sent his report to the Legisla-ture until after the decision of the Chancellor.

RECEIVERS OF THE ST. LOUIS MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

St. Louis, Feb. 6.-Frederick Von Phul. Blias Bent, and Guard B. Allen, prominent citizens of St. Louis, have been appointed receivers of the St. Louis Mutual Life Insurance Company.

### TURKEY AND THE POWERS.

THE SITUATION UNSETTLED.

THE TEXT OF PRINCE GORTCHAKOFF'S CIRCULAR PUBLISHED—HE DECLARES THAT RUSSIA WISHES TO ACT IN ACCORD WITH THE OTHER POWERS. Prince Gortchakoff states in his note that

liplomacy has failed to settle the Eastern question, which has become more perplexing on account of the war in Servia and the general agitation which has sprung up. Midhat Pasha's downfall has not so far affected the policy of the Ottoman Government. His dismissal was owing to his being concerned in a conspiracy to dethrone the Sultan.

THE TURKS ARRAIGNED. PRINCE GORTCHANOFF DECLARES THE OTTOMAN POWER A MENACE TO BURGPE-MIDHAT PASHA'S DOWNPALL EXPLAINED.

LONDON, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1877. The text of Prince Gortchakoff's circular note, addressed to the Russian representatives at the courts of the other guaranteeing Powers, under date of Jan 31, is received here. After recapitulating the diplomatic efforts at pacification, extending from the outl

stantinople conference, the note continues:

of the insurrection in 1875 to the convening of the Constantinople conference, the note continues:

This conference in its preliminary deliberations arrived at a complete understanding, both respecting the conditions of peace and the reforms to be introduced. It communicated the result to the Porte as the firm and unanimous wish of Europe, but met with an obstinate refusal. Thus, after more than a year of diplomatic efforts, demonstrating the value the Great Powers attach to the pnedification of the East and the right they possess of insuring it, because of the general interests involved, and their firm desire to obtain it by means of a European understanding, the Cabinets again find themselves in the same position as at the commencement of the erists, which is further aggravated by the blood that has been shed, the passions that have been raised, and the indefinite prolongation of the deplorable state of things which weighs upon Europe and justly preoccupies public opinion and the Governments.

The Porte pays no regard to its former engagements, to its duties as a member of the European concert, or to the unanimous wishes of the Great Powers. Far from having made a step toward a satisfactory solution of the Eastern question, the Ottoman-Empire has been and remains a permanent menace to the peace of Europe, as well as to the sentiments of humanity and the conscience of Caristian peoples. Under these circumstances, before deciding on a course he may think right to follow, his Majesty the Emperor wishes to know what course will be determined upon by the Cabinets with whom we have acted up to the present and with whom we have acted up to the present and with whom we have a possible to continue proceeding in common accord. The object which the Great Powers have in view has been already defined by the acts of the conference. The returns of the Trailsh Government touches the dignity and peace of Europe. It is important for us to know what the Cabinets with which we have acted in concert until now intend to do in repl

A special dispatch from Constantinople to The Pall Mall Gazette says: "The cause of Mithat Pasha's fall dates from some time back. The imperious character of Midhat Pasha clashed with the firmness of the Sultan, whose liberal views went far ahead of Midhat's. The constitution disappointed the Sultan by the multiplicity of its reserves and qualifications, and many warm dis cussions occurred between the Sovereign and Minister, The Suitan desired to introduce largely a fereign element into Turkish administration, and especially to employ Englishmen in leading positions in all departments. His Majesty expressed this desire to Midnat Pasha very strongly on several occasions, and last week took hi sternly to task for not having acted upon it. Midhat Pasha replied curtly, and wrote subsequently to the Sultan in undeferential terms. On Friday last the Sultan

tan in undeferential terms. On Friday last the Sultan sent for Midhat Pasha, but the summons was not obeyed. On Saturday Midhat Pasha remained at home on a plea of indisposition. On Sunday a third summons was disobeyed, but Midhat Pasha attended a ministerial council in the afternoon.

Meanwhile the poltee discovered secret correspondence which showed that Midhat Pasha was plotting for the overthrow of the Sultan and his own nomination as Dictator. On Monday a peremptory summons brought Midhat Pasha to the Palace, suspecting nothing. On entering he was arrested and his letters laid before him. There was no gainsaying the evidence against him, and he asked for mercy. A council of ministers was called and Midhat Pasha was offered the choice of leaving the country or being arraigned before a tribunal on a charge of Midhat Pasha was offered the choice of leaving the country or being arranged before a tribunal on a charge of high treason. He elected to leave the country, and was asked it he would go to Greece. He replied that he had not like the Greeks, and asked to go to Brindist, but complained that he had no ready money. Twenty-five hundred dollars were given him, and he embarked at noon for Brindist on board the Imperial yacht Izzedin. The letters found disclosed that 3,000 Ulemas were to have gone on Monday night to the Palace to demand the abdication of the Sultan. The fall of Midhat Pasha will check no reforms, the Sultan being determined to earry out the constitution in its fullest spirit.

MIDHAT'S REMOVAL ADVANTAGEOUS. Referring to the dismissal of Midhat Pasha, a Constantinople telegram in The Daily News says : " Midhat Pasha has long been opposing the Sultan, who desired to yield and make concessions to the conference. His removal is will be conducive to conciliation." The foregoi wholly at variance with all previous accounts of Edher Pasha's opinions and conduct.

The Porte, in notifying to its representatives abroad the ministerial changes, adds: "The Sultan urgently recommends the Grand Vizier to speedily and completely develop all the principles established by the constitution, and to carry out all laws and administrative institutions amplicable to the pressures."

applicable to the provinces,"
The Pall Mall Gazette this afternoon says it does not be-beve Midhat Pasha's downfull betokens a more concilia-tory policy, but rather believes that Edhen Pasha's ac-cession means more uncompromising resistance. THE TURKISH TERMS OF PEACE. VIENNA, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1877.

The Politische Correspondenz states that the Porte has proposed the following conditions to Servia, waiving its former claim for substantial guarantees: "1. The right of being diplomatically represented at Belgrade. 2. That Catholics and Jews shall enjoy the same rights as native Servians. 3. That Servia shall not allow the formation of armed bands or the violation of Turkish territory. 4. That the existence of secret societies shall not be permitted. 5. That the Servian fortresses shall be kept in good repair, and, finally, that the Turkish flag shall be hoisted upon those fortresses jointly with the Servian flag." The Politische Correspondens says "Servia will doubtless accept these conditions, and send a special commissioner to Constantinople."

# GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

MINISTERIAL CRISIS IN HUNGARY. LONDON, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 1877. A Vienna telegram announces that the Hun-

garian Ministers have tendered their resignations because of failure to effect an agreement with Austria on the bank question. It is doubtful whether the Emperor has accepted their resignations. THE FRENCH SILK INDUSTRY DEPRESSED.

VERSAILLES, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1877. In the Chamber of Deputies yesterday M.

Ordinaire (Radical Republican), member for Lyons, questioned the Government as to what steps it intended to take to alleviate the distress among the workmen of Lyons. M. Ordinaire stated that 50,000 operatives were thrown out of employment in consequence of low wages and the dearness of raw silk, which had risen 80 per

M. Simon, the President of the Council, replied that

M. Simon, the President of the Council, replied that the Government would do everything in its power to assist the local authorities.

It appears from an article in the Economiste Française that two-thirds of the silkworkers are unemployed, and manufacturers declare that work cannot be resumed until the price of raw silk fails 15 per cent. The Presect of the Rhone has devoted \$53,000 from the local funds to the relief of the sufferers. The Economiste Française adds that it is believed by many that the business of Lyons will not soon recover, and that the demand for silk fabrics is declining before that for woolens.

THE MANCHESTER COTTON TRADE. MANCHESTER, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1877.

At the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce yesterday, the President stated that the exports of Manchester goods to the United States, which formerly afforded an excellent market, now amounted to nothing, and that there is considerable trade in Man-chester in cotton fabrics manufactured in America.

FOREIGN NOTES. TORONTO, Ont., Feb. 6 .- Joseph Gearing, a

contractor, has made an assignment. His liabilities amount to \$110,000. LONDON, Feb. 6 .- The Court of Exchequer has affirmed the decision of the Huddersfield magistrate

convicting Dr. Monck, the spiritual medium, under the vagrant act, and sentenced him to three months' im-LONDON, Feb. 7 .- The ravages of the small-

pox are again increasing. There were 103 deaths from the disease in London last week, being the largest num-ber during the present spidemic except in the first week of January.